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PATENT
Docket No.: 02307V-139100US
Client Ref. No.: B03-091

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: _____ /Terrie J. Rau/ _____

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Haichao LIU, et al.

Application No.: 10/663,299

Filed: September 15, 2003

For: PROCESS AND
CATALYSTS FOR THE
OXIDATION OF METHANOL
AND/OR ETHANOL

Confirmation No.: 2611

Examiner: Karl Puttlitz

Art Unit: 1621

RESPONSE - REQUEST
FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 3, 2007, Applicants request reconsideration and reexamination of this application on the basis of the following comments.

Appreciation is expressed for the interview of November 6, 2007 with the examiner, in which the rejection was discussed. All comments made by the undersigned during the interview are contained herein.

Claims 1-28 stand rejected as obvious over Mamoru et al. in view of Kirk-Othmer.

As the examiner points out, Mamoru et al. disclose the use of unsupported iron-molybdenum catalysts for the oxidation of methanol. Kirk-Othmer is relied on for disclosing supported catalysts.

However, the claims herein are directed to a method for oxidation of methanol that uses a supported catalyst comprising a platinum group metal oxide. As known in the art, the platinum group metals are a group of six specific metals - platinum, palladium, rhodium, osmium, ruthenium and iridium. The group does not include either iron or molybdenum, and the use of catalysts containing either of these two metals does not make the use of a platinum group metal oxide catalyst in any way obvious.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the current claims are allowable and request an early notice to that effect.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/Joel G. Ackerman/

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